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Magistrate Judge Theiler

3           APR 26 2018  
4           AT SEATTLE  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
BY           DEPUTY

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7           UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
8           WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9           AT SEATTLE

10          UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. MJ18-195

11          Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION

12          v.

Title 22, U.S.C. Section 2778(b)

13  
14          HANY VELETANLIC,

Defendants.

15  
16  
17          BEFORE, Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S. Courthouse,  
18 Seattle, Washington.

19          The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

20           COUNT 1  
21           (Arms Export Control Act)

22          On a date uncertain, but no earlier than February 8, 2017, at Snohomish County,  
23 within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, HANY VELETANLIC did  
24 willfully export from the United States defense articles designated on the United States  
25 Munitions List, International Traffic in Arms Regulations, namely a Glock lower  
26 receiver, a defense article covered by Category I of the United States Munitions List,  
27 without having obtained from the United States Department of State, a license or written  
28 approval for the export of the defense article.

COMPLAINT/VELETANLIC - 1

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1 All in violation of Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(2) and (c), Title  
2 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 123.1, and 127.1(a), and Title 18,  
3 United States Code, Section 2.

4 I, Glen Karabeika, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

5 **INTRODUCTION**

6 1. I am a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
7 (DHS), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), assigned to the Office of the Special  
8 Agent in Charge, Seattle, Washington. I have been employed as a Special Agent with  
9 HSI and its predecessor agency since 1988. I am currently assigned to the Counter-  
10 Proliferation Investigations Group, where I investigate cases involving the illegal export  
11 of weapons and other items from the United States.

12 2. I have received formal training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training  
13 Center in Glynco, Georgia. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with the  
14 manner in which individuals illegally acquire and export controlled merchandise from the  
15 United States to foreign countries.

16 3. As outlined below, there is probable cause to believe that HANY  
17 VELETANLIC willfully exported multiple firearms and firearms parts to Sweden and  
18 other countries from the United States without a required export license.

19 **LEGAL BACKGROUND**

20 4. In furtherance of the security and foreign policy of the United States, the  
21 United States regulates and restricts the export of arms, munitions, implements of war,  
22 and defense articles, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act (“AECA”), Title 22,  
23 United States Code, Section 2778. The regulations that govern such exports are entitled  
24 the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (“ITAR”), Title 22, Code of Federal  
25 Regulations, Parts 120-130.

26 5. The ITAR implements the provisions of the AECA and establishes the  
27 framework for regulating the export of defense articles. The ITAR defines an “export” as  
28 the sending or taking of a defense article out of the United States in any manner. The

1 ITAR contains the United States Munitions List (“USML”), Title 22, Code of Federal  
2 Regulations, Section 121.1. Items and services listed in the USML are deemed “defense  
3 articles” and “defense services,” and are subject to control by the ITAR.

4       6.     The USML sets forth twenty-one categories of defense articles and services  
5 that are subject to export licensing controls. Included in this list are such things as  
6 military aircraft, helicopters, artillery, shells, missiles, rockets, bombs, vessels of war,  
7 explosives, military and space electronics, certain types of optical equipment, guns,  
8 ammunition, firearms, close assault weapons, combat shotguns, and components of such  
9 firearms and weapons.

10       7.     No defense articles or defense service may be exported or otherwise  
11 transferred from the United States to a foreign country without a license or written  
12 approval from the United States Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade  
13 Controls (“DDTC”).

14       8.     As determined by the DDTC, handgun lower receivers are defense articles  
15 covered by Category I(g) of the USML.

#### SUMMARY OF PROBABLE CAUSE

17       9.     On February 27, 2017, HSI Frankfurt advised that Swedish Customs had  
18 intercepted a package containing a 9mm gun barrel, along with a spring and slide for a  
19 pistol. The parcel had been shipped from the United States using the U.S. Postal Service.  
20 The parcel purported to be from a “Ben Manacker,” at 2135 N 179th Street, Shoreline,  
21 WA 98133. The customs paperwork indicated that the parcel had been shipped from the  
22 North Lakewood, Washington post office in Snohomish County. The shipper had  
23 described the parcel as containing “Schwinn bicycle and front shaft, used part.” Swedish  
24 authorities advised that the recipient of the package has an extensive criminal record,  
25 including a history of narcotics and weapons trafficking.

26       10.    On February 28, 2017, a Postal Inspector and I visited the North Lakewood  
27 post office. The clerk remembered the shipment in question. The clerk recalled that the  
28 person who had shipped the package had shipped two other parcels from the post office

1 in recent weeks. According to the clerk, the person said he had also mailed items from  
2 the Marysville post office, but complained that the lines at that office were too long.

3       11. The Postal Inspector retrieved postal declarations associated with two other  
4 shipments to different addresses in Sweden that had been mailed from the North  
5 Lakewood post office under the same name of "Ben Manacker." The shipments were  
6 described as containing "mountain bike chain gears, used part" and "used bike part," and  
7 had been mailed on February 17 and 21, 2017. The return address associated with both  
8 shipments was a different Shoreline address compared to the seized shipment.

9       12. The Postal Inspector and I also visited the Marysville post office. The  
10 postal clerks recalled that a person had sent items to Sweden that had been declared as  
11 bicycle parts. A clerk found a postal declaration associated with one of the shipments to  
12 Sweden. We then found three additional postal declarations for packages sent to various  
13 addresses in Sweden. The handwriting on the declarations all matched the handwriting  
14 on the declarations from the North Lakewood post office.

15       13. The Marysville postal declarations described the packages as containing  
16 "Treck bicycle part -used," "used becycle [sic] part," "used Suzuki front shaft," and  
17 "used bike part, plastic grip." The senders were identified as "Edward Valentine,"  
18 "Edward Tucker," "David Becker," and "Edward Becker." The return addresses  
19 corresponded to three separate addresses in Lake Stevens and Everett, Washington.

20       14. On March 6, 2017, I identified an additional postal declaration from the  
21 Arlington post office that matched the handwriting of the other declarations. The  
22 declaration was for a package that had been sent to Sweden under the name "David  
23 Becker" from a fictitious Everett address. The declaration stated that the package  
24 contained a "used bike part."<sup>1</sup>

25  
26  
27       1 I submitted eight of the postal declarations that we had gathered to the HSI Forensic Laboratory for handwriting  
28 analysis. The Forensic Laboratory report indicated that the declarations were "probably prepared" by the same  
person.

1       15. On that same date, HSI Frankfurt notified me that Swedish authorities had  
 2 executed a search warrant on February 22, 2017, at the residence to which one of the  
 3 aforementioned packages had been shipped. The Swedish authorities seized a Glock  
 4 lower receiver. The authorities also located a tracking number for one of the North  
 5 Lakewood shipments, and three other previously-unidentified shipments that had been  
 6 sent from the Arlington post office. Two of those shipments had been sent to Sweden;  
 7 the other had been sent to Germany. The Swedish authorities reported that the tracking  
 8 numbers had been sent from a U.S. phone number. According to law enforcement  
 9 databases, that number belongs to HANY VELETANLIC, who lives in Tulalip,  
 10 Washington.

11       16. I showed the postal clerk at the North Lakewood post office a driver's  
 12 license photograph of VELETANLIC. The clerk identified VELETANLIC as the person  
 13 who had mailed the packages to Sweden.

14       17. The Glock lower receiver that the Swedish authorities seized lacked a serial  
 15 number, but contained the number 1534020919. ATF Special Agent Claudia Grigore  
 16 spoke with Glock. Glock confirmed that the number was not a serial number, but rather a  
 17 number that allows Glock to trace the manufacturing of the pistol. Glock said that its  
 18 records showed that the number was associated with a Glock model 34 pistol, 9 mm,  
 19 serial number BATR295. ATF records showed that this pistol had been sold by a  
 20 Lynnwood, Washington, FFL to N.N., an individual who resides in Seattle.

21       18. On May 30, 2017, I interviewed N.N., along with Special Agent Grigore.  
 22 N.N. stated that he is a gun enthusiast and that he shoots and trades many different  
 23 firearms. We asked him about the Glock 34 that he had purchased in February 2017. He  
 24 consulted his online Armslist account. He stated that he had purchased the gun from an  
 25 individual on Armslist and that he and the seller had completed the sale with a FFL to  
 26 comply with the law.

27       19. N.N. could not recall what he did with the Glock pistol. He said that he  
 28 assumed that he had traded it. We showed N.N. a driver's license photograph of

1 VELETANLIC and N.N. immediately stated "that's my buddy!" N.N. said that his  
 2 "buddy's" name was "Hany," but that he could not recall his last name, other than it  
 3 started with "Vel." N.N. said that VELETANLIC was his friend and that they shot  
 4 together and he considered VELETANLIC an expert in firearms. N.N. stated that he had  
 5 met VELETANLIC in 2014 and had either sold or traded approximately five firearms  
 6 with him. N.N. specifically denied selling VELETANLIC the Glock 34 in question. We  
 7 pressed N.N. several more times if he sold or traded the Glock 34 to VELETANLIC.  
 8 N.N. was vague in his responses but added that he only sold VELETANLIC firearms via  
 9 a FFL.

10 20. On the following day, VELETANLIC called me and said he wanted to set  
 11 up a meeting to talk about the shipment of guns. We set up a meeting that day. Prior to  
 12 speaking with him, I advised him of his *Miranda* rights. He agreed to waive those rights  
 13 and spoke with me and Special Agent Grigore. He said that he was an avid shooter and  
 14 trader of guns. He said that in approximately January 2017, he posted a firearm part on  
 15 eBay that was purchased by a man in Sweden. VELETANLIC said that he shipped the  
 16 part to the man, but did not recall the man's name.

17 21. According to VELETANLIC, the man in Sweden contacted him outside of  
 18 eBay and negotiated purchases of several more guns. The man instructed VELETANLIC  
 19 to obliterate the serial numbers of the guns, to use fictitious return addresses, and to use  
 20 different U.S. Post Offices to ship the guns to Sweden. VELETANLIC said that the man  
 21 in Sweden paid him for the first shipment via PayPal and the latter shipments via Bitcoin.

22 22. On July 25, 2017, Special Agent Grigore and I met with VELETANLIC at  
 23 his residence. He admitted to sending to Sweden approximately six 9mm pistols, 9mm  
 24 ammunition, a Taurus pistol slide, and a Smith & Wesson firearms parts kit. He also  
 25 admitted in 2015 and 2016 to sending firearm magazines, Glock slides and receivers, and  
 26 firearms accessories, to an individual in Russia. He also said that he had sent firearm  
 27 magazines and possibly some firearm slides to an individual in Brazil. Finally, he stated  
 28 that he had sent Glock magazines and parts to an individual in France.

1       23. VELETANLIC said that an individual in France had provided him with two  
2 silencers. He said that he had destroyed the silencers after being contacted by agents in  
3 this matter.

4       24. VELETANLIC gave agents permission to inspect his gun safe. Agents  
5 located a silencer, *i.e.*, a B&T AG Switzerland suppressor, model Tiger, .22LR caliber.  
6 VELETANLIC said that the silencer was one of the two silencers that he had received  
7 from France that he previously told us had been destroyed. Special Agent Grigore seized  
8 the silencer after confirming with ATF that VELETANLIC had not registered any  
9 silencers.<sup>2</sup>

10      25. On August 1, 2017, Special Agent Grigore met VELETANLIC again.  
11 VELETANLIC surrendered another silencer, a Vortex, RDS Industrie France,  
12 suppressor, bearing no serial number. VELETANLIC said he had received the silencer  
13 from his friend in France. He admitted to not being truthful earlier when he told agents  
14 that he had destroyed both silencers that he had received from France.

15      26. A check with the U.S. Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade  
16 Controls indicated that VELETANLIC has never obtained an export license for the  
17 export of any firearms or components.

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27      <sup>2</sup> ATF previously seized from VELETANLIC two firearms. VELETANLIC told agents that he had purchased the  
28 firearms from an individual and suspected they were stolen. Agents confirmed that the firearms had in fact been  
reported as stolen and seized them.

1                   **CONCLUSION**

2         27. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause  
3 to believe that VELETANLIC did violate the Arms Export Control Act by willfully  
4 exporting without a license a lower receiver, a defense article on the United States  
5 Munitions List.

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7                   Glenn Karabeika, Complainant  
8                   Special Agent, HSI

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11         Based on the Complaint and Affidavit sworn to before me, and subscribed in my  
12 presence, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant  
13 committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

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15         Dated this 26 day of April, 2018.

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18                   MARY ALICE THEILER  
19                   United States Magistrate Judge  
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